

THE HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN



July 28, 1986

Mr. C. Brown
AGES
1102 - 258 Lisgar Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K2P 0C9

Dear Mr. Brown:

This is in response to your letter of June 11, 1986 addressed to the Board of Directors of The Hospital for Sick Children.

Rather than address, point by point, the issues raised in your letter, I wish to offer a number of comments of a more general nature.

Dr. Zimmerman is Chief of the Allergy Division of the Department of Paediatrics and is a member of the full-time medical staff of The Hospital for Sick Children. While he provides correspondence on patient-related matters and other issues on Hospital letterhead, he does so as a practising physician and member of the full-time medical staff; however this does not imply that he is necessarily speaking for The Hospital for Sick Children or that his comments are reflective of Hospital policy. From time to time, Dr. Zimmerman may express personal opinions and, following customary practice, may do so on Hospital letterhead. It is therefore unfair to infer from the fact that a letter from Dr. Zimmerman is typed on Hospital letterhead that the contents necessarily reflect Hospital policy.

In the fall of last year, The Hospital for Sick Children acceded to a request from the Ministry of Health to establish an Advisory Panel to undertake the clarification of the Thomson Committee Report on environmental hypersensitivity. Membership of the Panel includes a number of respected scientists and physicians who occupy senior positions in patient care and research within teaching hospitals associated with the University of Toronto and McMaster University. The panel's report will speak for itself and is not a report of any particular institution.

As secretary to the Panel, I can say that the report to the Minister of Health will shortly be published expressing the view of the Panel that the Thomson Report constituted a thorough and complete review of this complex and controversial subject. The Advisory Panel did reach the conclusion that the Thomson Report stands on its own. The role of the Advisory Panel was to provide further input to the Ministry of Health which is considering implementation of the Thomson Report.

I trust the foregoing clarifies the position of The Hospital for Sick Children in this matter.

Sincerely,

Kerr M. Chalmers
Vice President - Finance

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